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Contact: Dan Reeves (916) 319-2045

***Assistant Majority Leader Kevin de León's Legislation to Extend Organizing Rights to Child Care Workers Passes Out of Policy Committee***

**SACRAMENTO**—Assistant Majority Leader Kevin de León's Assembly Bill 1164, which would give child care workers the right to form, join, and participate in provider organizations, was approved today by the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee.

"There are over 100,000 child care workers here in California providing services to nearly 700,000 families," said Assistant Majority Leader De León. "These workers are struggling to make ends meet, and cannot afford health insurance for themselves or their families. They deserve the right to join together and have an influence on matters that affect their livelihoods."

"One of the things I like best about being a family child care provider is the one-on-one relationship with the children I care for everyday and their parents," said Kathy Williams of Los Angeles. "AB 1164 will give providers like me a stronger voice to advocate for these families, children, and providers like me, when decisions are made in Sacramento that affect us."

"Family child care providers are the neighbors, relatives, and friends that take care of our children while we are at work," stated Rosie Kennedy, Organizer, United Child Care Workers (UCCW). "This bill gives them a voice to speak up on the rules and regulations that affect their working day."

Under current law, family child care providers are considered "independent contractors" and cannot collectively negotiate on issues that affect their businesses. This bill would extend organizing rights to these workers by protecting them with the existing labor exemption to federal and state antitrust laws.

AB 1164 is sponsored by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), AFL-CIO, which have jointly formed the United Child Care Workers union. This legislation will next be heard in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

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